

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

MAY 2010

LONG DISTANCE SPIRITUALITY

BY TIM KELLER

Years ago, on the advice of an older and wiser Christian, I began trying to pray through the Psalms once every month. Don't be too impressed—I seldom make it through all 150 of the psalms every 30 days. However, by making that the goal I am able to eventually ponder each one at least several times a year.

One psalm especially has always caught my attention—Psalm 71. It might be entitled a 'Psalm for Old Age.' In verse 5 the psalmist says, "For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth," and in verse 9, "Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when

my strength is gone." This text has been of more interest to me as I have grown older, but I usually think, "no use preaching on this psalm to a young congregation like mine." And yet, I've come to see there is a lesson here for all of us, and especially for the young.

The psalmist says that from his youth he has relentlessly worked at three things. He has "always" taken refuge in God during times of distress (verse 3), "always" praised God as an act of personal discipline (verse 7), and "always" put his hope in God for his future. The first practice has to do with how he has processed his suffering and disappointments, and the second

practice has to do with daily prayer. He recounts that he has never let anything turn him aside from these disciplines:

Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up...I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; my lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I, whom you have redeemed. (Psalm 71:20,22-23)

The third is the most foundational of all. He does rigorous self-examination regarding the fundamental trusts of his heart.

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HOPE FOR NEW YORK THANKS YOU!

On behalf of its affiliates, Hope for New York would like to thank all of those who gave sacrificially to the Easter Sacrificial Offering. Hope for New York is a 501(c)(3) organization started by Redeemer that provides volunteer and financial resources to organizations serving the poor and marginalized of New York City.

100% of the Easter donations will be distributed in the form of grants to affiliates to meet the growing needs of under-served communities across the city. If you were unable to give on Easter Sunday but would still like to participate in the sacrificial offering, please visit www.hfny.org for information on how to give. Again, our deepest thanks for your gifts on behalf of those we serve.



ON THIS SIDE OF THE JOURNEY

BY MARY NAM, DEACONESS

As I was finishing up the process last year to join the Diaconate*, an opportunity presented itself to begin working with a congregant. The congregant had come to the Diaconate seeking financial assistance and emotional support. At the first meeting, my Diaconate partner and I learned that this congregant was dealing with the loss of job, a great deal of debt and a tremendous amount of emotional upheaval within her family. And she was doing it all as a single parent to her two children. It became rapidly evident that there would be no "quick fix" to the problem. In fact, the real question was how were we even going to help her and her family stay afloat?

In looking back on my first official meeting with a congregant under the Diaconate's care, I'm sure that the Lord was blessing me by throwing me into a situation where I was so clearly inadequate for the task at hand. Her needs seemed so great that all I could do was cry out to the Lord for his help. And perhaps it's because of the intensity of the storm that she found herself in that this congregant was and has been so eager for prayer and so open to looking at circumstances in light of her relationship to God.

My Diaconate partner and I have been working with this family for about 9 months now and it has been rewarding to see how the Lord has shown

his love, his mercy and his provision to her. Ever so slowly, the crisis has stabilized and we are starting the process of bringing Diaconate assistance to a close. The transition will be slow and the family will still have ongoing challenges to work through even after the helping relationship is near an end, but how different things look on this side of the journey!

**The Diaconate is Redeemer's ministry of mercy addressing the needs of those in our church family experiencing hardship. The Diaconate is our response to God's calling to be merciful and to love and care for one another in practical ways. If you need practical assistance, please call the Diaconate Helpline, (212) 726-1334.*

LONG DISTANCE SPIRITUALITY...

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He is careful to know what he actually rests in and lives for, and he continually re-focuses his soul's deepest hopes on God. Over the decades, the Psalmist has simply not let up on these commitments. As a result, he is literally bursting with desire to let people know what he has found in God.

*Since my youth, O God,
you have taught me, and to*

*this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.
(Psalm 71:17-18)*

In 1836, Charles Simeon retired after fifty-four years of ministry at the Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, UK.

There he had been engaged in a ministry of expository preaching that had sent several generations of young Christian leaders out into British society. He had accomplished far more than 99.99% of ministers ever do. Yet a friend discovered that this elderly man was still rising at 4:00 a.m. every morning to light his own fire and to
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REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Heather Klein

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.
OFFICE • 1359 BROADWAY (BETWEEN W. 36/37TH STREETS) • FOURTH FLOOR • NY, NY 10018-7102
(212) 808-4460 (PHONE) (212) 808-4465 (FAX) www.redeemer.com

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| HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington) services at 10:30AM • 6:00PM | ETHICAL CULTURE West 64TH and CPW service at 9:15AM | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Corner of West 79TH and Broadway service at 5:00PM & 7:15PM |
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2010 ENTREPRENEURS INITIATIVE FORUM

Creativity and innovation abounded at the 2010 Entrepreneurs Initiative (Ei) Forum in NYC, April 16-17.

250 investors and entrepreneurs gathered at 7 World Trade Center to encourage a movement of gospel entrepreneurship amongst Redeemer congregants and beyond. This year, for the first time, we welcomed 60 participants from 19 states and 2 countries who came as pastor/business person teams to extend the Ei into their church communities.

Highlights of the Forum were talks by Tim Keller (see photo), Alfa Demmellash

(CEO of Rising Tide Capital), Al Sikes (former FCC chairman and entrepreneur of for-profit and not-for-profit



Tim Keller speaks at Ei Forum on Creation and Creativity

ventures), Ena Heller and Roberta Ahmanson (founders of the NYC Museum of Biblical Art), and Bill Kurtz

(former Redeemerite and founder of a thriving charter school in Denver).

In addition we featured 6 breakout sessions with entrepreneurs from within our community, announced our 2010 Business Plan Competition winners, and showcased our winners from the last 3 years. Many thanks to all the Ei Steering Committee, members of the Entrepreneurs Fellowship, our investment partners, and others who volunteered to make the Forum a success. You will be able to access many of the Forum talks online at: www.faithandwork.org/eiform.

GOD'S GENEROUS GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

Christians around the world will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 16. The day remembers Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit (John 14:16), which we see realized in the account in Acts 2.

Jesus' promise came at a particularly tense moment, the night before his crucifixion when he was comforting his disciples. They were troubled, confused and even doubting that they knew the way to the Father. To reassure them, Jesus reminded them of who he was, and he promised them the Third Person of the Trinity.

God is constantly giving. In Genesis, he breathed life into

us and gave us the world to take care of and each other to love. To right a world we stewarded poorly, he gave us his One and Only Son, Jesus Christ. This month we mark his generosity in giving us the Spirit of truth.

John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople in the 4th century, said, "God has given us the greatest gift possible and in profusion... What is this gift? It is the Holy Spirit!" Romans 8:32 says, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

BY HOWARD FREEMAN

God has been unceasing and extravagant in his gifts to us. And they're not over yet! At the end of the Bible we see that he gives his chosen people a new garden-city to replace the one from which we were banished.

If the fully restored City of God is our destination, of which we are already citizens (Phil. 3:20), and if God has already given both his Son as an atoning sacrifice and his Spirit to guide us, what more do we need? We are freed up to discern by the Spirit what our neighbors' needs are and meet them proactively. We are

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spend time reading the Bible, praying, repenting, and spending time with God. His friend thought this was over-kill. "Mr. Simeon," he pleaded, "Do you not think that, now that you are retired, you might take things more easily?" "What?!" replied the old Charles Simeon, "Shall I not now run with all my might when the winning-post is in sight?"

I am neither of advanced age nor a young man, but I know why Simeon could not imagine

taking things "more easily." It was because the praising, the hoping, and the resting becomes better and better if you are willing to give it daily attention for years and years. The one hundredth time through the Psalms or the Proverbs will yield astonishingly sweet, comforting, and convicting insights, because the more you know the Bible as a whole the more sense its particular parts make. And the more you know your own

heart the more you know how to work on it, how to move past your discouragement, your peevishness, and your self-pity. But it takes years of relentless discipline. It is similar to how it takes years of practice to enjoy the power of playing the piano beautifully, but what we are talking about goes beyond even that in complexity and depth.

When it comes to the spiritual disciplines, don't be a sprinter. Be a long-distance runner.

GOD'S GENEROUS GIFT... (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

strengthened by the Spirit to do so unceasingly, even as our flesh fails us. And we are given the fruit of the Spirit to give

out of love rather than out of pride or guilt. From Acts 2:42 on, we see believers loving one other and the community

around them as a result of the Holy Spirit's coming.

Truly, God always gives more than we can even imagine.